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Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance: strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations

Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Identical letters dated 1 November 2016 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I should like to draw your attention to the following:

Armed terrorist groups active in the city of Aleppo fired a large number of rockets and mortar shells at neighbourhoods in western Aleppo. Their targets included the United Nations headquarters located in the Shahba Hotel, which was hit on the western side that faces Bustan al-Qasr, a neighbourhood controlled by terrorist groups. That reprehensible terrorist attack led the acting United Nations Resident Coordinator in the Syrian Arab Republic to evacuate that office's staff from Aleppo.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic condemns that terrorist attack, which was carried out by the Nur al-Din al-Zanki terrorist organization and other terrorist entities affiliated with the Nusrah Front and Al-Qaida terrorist organizations. It calls on the United Nations and the Security Council to condemn that attack and to compel the Governments of States that support terrorist groups to cease their violations of international law and the Charter of the United Nations, put an end to the crimes of their affiliated terrorist groups, and fully implement the relevant United Nations and Security Council counter-terrorism resolutions, in particular resolutions 1267 (1999), 1373 (2001), 2170 (2014), 2178 (2014), 2199 (2015) and 2253 (2016), as well as the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism

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Strategy and the resolution adopted at the conclusion of the fifth Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy Review.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic reiterates its commitment to the security and safety of international and local humanitarian workers. It believes that the decision to evacuate United Nations staff from Aleppo at this critical juncture was inappropriate and constitutes an abdication by the Secretariat of its responsibilities and obligations under the Charter. The Syrian Government deplores the failure of senior United Nations officials to condemn crimes and attacks by armed terrorist groups, even those committed against the Organization's own headquarters, especially when the Secretariat seems ready to unleash a torrent of statements, accusation and criticisms whenever trumped up charges are levelled against the Syrian Government.

The Syrian Government calls on the Secretariat to ensure full adherence to the principle of "stay and deliver" as affirmed by General Assembly resolutions adopted under the agenda items entitled "Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations" and "Safety and security of humanitarian personnel", and to continue its work in the city of Aleppo under existing coordination arrangements in full cooperation with the Syrian Government.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic reiterates its commitment to working with national partners and United Nations agencies to meet the needs of the Syrian people, including the inhabitants of the city of Aleppo.

I should be grateful if this letter could be issued as a document of the seventy-first session of the General Assembly, under agenda items 69 (a) and 108, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative